

obtained by contacting the antibody containing source with a pepsin-polyacrylamide matrix to produce F(ab)₂ and F(c) fragments which are then passed through an antibody containing source through an antigen-polyacrylamide gel capable of attracting the F(ab)₂ fragments. IgG antibodies are obtained by passing an antibody containing source through an antigen-polyacrylamide gel. These processes can be used to purify a wide variety of antibodies which can be used as therapeutic agents and as diagnostic agents. Antivenins produced by these processes have substantially reduced foreign protein levels and hence are less likely to produce immunogenic reactions. Bulk, unprocessed antibody sources may be utilized and, for reasons of process simplification, are preferred."

IN THE ABSTRACT:

An Abstract of the Disclosure is filed herewith on a separate page.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

27. (Amended) An antivenin composition comprising an administrable form of F(ab) fragments which [are active against] bind specifically to venoms of species of the Crotalus genus, and which [produce an electrophoresis showing that anti-F(ab)₂ materials give a precipitation band against the F(ab) fragments but produce no precipitation band against anti-F(c) materials and wherein said F(ab) fragments have a molecular weight of about 50,000] are essentially free from contaminating Fc as judged by immunoelectrophoresis using anti-Fc antibodies.

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29. (Amended) An antivenin composition comprising an administrable form of polyvalent F(ab) fragments which [produce an electrophoresis showing that anti-F(ab)₂ materials give a precipitation band against the F(ab) fragments but produce no precipitation band against anti-F(c) materials and wherein said F(ab) fragments have a molecular weight of about 50,000] are essentially free from contaminating Fc as judged by immunoelectrophoresis using anti-Fc antibodies.

Claim 30, line 3, before "antibody", insert --unprocessed--;
and

line 3, delete "are active against" and insert therefor --binds specifically to--.

[Please cancel claims 20-26 and 28 and add new claims 31-39.]

--31. A method of treating a mammal in need of an antivenin composition, comprising the administration of the antivenin composition as claimed in claim 27 to said mammal.

32. A method of treating a mammal in need of an antivenin composition, comprising the administration of the antivenin composition as claimed in claim 29 to said mammal.

33. A method of treating a mammal in need of an antivenin composition, comprising the administration of the antivenin composition as claimed in claim 30 to said mammal.

34. The method of treating a mammal as claimed in claim 31, wherein the patient is human.

35. The method of treating a mammal as claimed in claim 32, wherein the patient is human.